

BOOK REVIEW

CAROL KAESUK YOON. 2009. **Naming Nature: The Clash Between Instinct And Science**. (ISBN: 978-0-393-06197-0, hbk.). W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10110, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.wwnorton.com, 1-800-233-4830, 1-212-869-0856 fax). \$27.95, 352 pp., 6 1/2" x 9 1/2"

Contents:

1. The Strange Case of the Fish That Wasn't

The Search for the Natural Order Begins

2. The Little Oracle

3. Miracle in a Barnacle

4. What Rock Bottom Looks Like

A Vision Illuminated

5. A Surprise in the Tower of Babel

6. The Umwelt Among Babies and the Brain-Damaged

7. Wog's Legacy

Science Is Born

8. Taxonomy by the Numbers

9. Better Taxonomy Through Chemistry

10. The Death of the Fish

A Vision Reclaimed

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Naming Nature covers the history and psychology behind taxonomy. The broad range of topics Yoon covers makes this book an interesting read not only for general taxonomists but psychologists as well. Yoon recounts rich taxonomic and evolutionary history from masters Linnaeus and Darwin. She does a wonderful job explaining the relationship between taxonomy and evolution with thought provoking history. She also discusses the psychology and parts of the brain associated with naming objects, animate and inanimate. Some of the most interesting parts of this text involve how people who have suffered brain damage perceive the living world and how fish have tortured taxonomists.—Rebecca Swadek, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 500 E 4th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.